Exim Policy Schemes like Duty Exemption Scheme and Export Capital Goods Scheme. The recent Exim Policy announced by the Government on the 31st March, 2001, also envisages the entitlement of Agri exporters for recognition as Export House / Trading House / Star Trading House / Super Star Trading House on achieving 1/3rd of the threshold limit prescribed for exports of other goods.

Disaster management centres

3539. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first disaster management centre has recently been commissioned in the national capital;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether such centres have come up in other States too;

(d) if so, the names thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Government of NCT of Delhi, a Disaster Management Centre was commissioned at Nehru Place Fire Station of Delhi Fire Service by providing a crane, ambulance, rescue tender and a unit containing rescue equipment to be managed by a team of personnel from Delhi Police.

(c) to (e) No information is available from other States for having a similar setup, but all the States have a mechanism to respond to disasters, which is a coordinated effort of all responders.

Purchasing power of working class in agricultural sector

3540. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that purchasing power of the working class in agricultural sector has gone down in previous years in the country;

(b) if not, what is Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that it is necessary to improve purchasing power of farmers to remove the existing financial crisis in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details of future plans of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) In comparison to base triennium ending 1990-91, the index of prices received by the agricultural sector for the year 1999- 2000 was estimated to be 223.1, higher than the index of prices paid estimated at 214.0. Also the farmer's income, which is reflected in the Gross Value Added of the Agricultural Sector including Animal Husbandry, Forestry & Fishing, has increased from Rs. 223,114 crores in 1990-91 to Rs. 290,334 crores in 1999-2000 at constant 1993-94 prices.

(c) and (d) The Government would continue to implement various thrust programmes and provide market / price support relating to crop and non-crop activities in the agricultural sector so as to improve the purchasing power of farmers in the country.

Variation in the annual growth rate of agriculture

3541. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the annual growth rate of agriculture in the country had remained different every year during the decade of 90's;

(b) if so, what has been the highest and the lowest annual growth rate during these years;

(c) the respective years during which this rate was the highest and the lowest during above period;

(d) whether it is a fact that production in agricultural sector in the country is still uncertain and is affected by the climate conditions; and

(e) if not, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the decade of 90s, the highest annual growth rate of Gross Value Addition (GVA) in agriculture and allied sector was 9.6% in 1996-97 and the lowest was - 2.4% in 1997-98.